

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure, comprising:

5 a layer of metallized polyester capable of withstanding a retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading;

a layer of polyester laminated to one side of the layer of metallized polyester, the layer of polyester being capable of withstanding the retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading; and

10 a layer of cast polypropylene laminated to an opposite side of the layer of metallized polyester, the layer of cast polypropylene being capable of withstanding the retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading.

2. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the layers are laminated to one another using solvent-based retortable laminating adhesives.

15 3. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the layers are laminated to one another using solventless retortable laminating adhesives.

4. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the layer of polyester is printed with ink on the side of the layer of polyester that faces the layer of metallized polyester.

20 5. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 1, wherein the polyester layers comprise polyethylene teraphthalate.

6. A flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure, comprising:

a layer of metallized polyester capable of withstanding a retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading;

25 a layer of cast polypropylene laminated to one side of the layer of metallized polyester, the layer of cast polypropylene being capable of withstanding the retort process at a temperature in excess of 100°C without melting or substantially degrading.

7. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, wherein the layers are laminated to each other by a solvent-based retortable laminating adhesive.

8. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, wherein the layers are laminated to each other by a solventless retortable laminating adhesive.

5        9. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, wherein the layer of metallized polyester is printed with ink on an opposite side thereof from the layer of cast polypropylene and the ink is then covered with a layer of a retortable lacquer.

10        10. The flexible non-foil-based retort packaging structure of claim 6, wherein the metallized polyester layer comprises polyethylene teraphthalate.

10        11. A flexible non-foil based retort package, comprising at least two opposing portions of the packaging structure of claim 1 having peripheral edge portions of the opposing portions heat-sealed together so as to form a pouch configuration.

15        12. A flexible non-foil based retort package, comprising at least two opposing portions of the packaging structure of claim 2 having peripheral edge portions of the opposing portions heat-sealed together so as to form a pouch configuration.